Amendments in RTI Act

†2188. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed amendments in the Right to Information Act, 2005 are going to be implemented;

(b) if so, whether these amendments are under consideration keeping in view the widespread protest therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the proposed amendments in the Act; and

(e) the details of the amendment provisions against which protest is being lodged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. In this regard, it is proposed to review the number of organizations in the second schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005 and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities. Government has received representations expressing doubts about the proposed amendments. Non-Governmental Organisations and Social activists will foe consulted on the proposed amendments.

Discontinuation of central schemes in Bihar

†2189. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has urged to discontinue central schemes;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether through this request, financial assistance has been sought for schemes proposed to be formulated by the State Government for the needs of the State; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the decision taken by Government to take action upon this proposal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Annual growth rate of GDP

†2190. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product during 2008-09 is estimated to be around 5.8 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that increase in expenditure incurred by public sector has led to increase in above growth rate;

(c) if so, the increase in Government expenditure in 2008-09 against the one in 2007-08; and

(d) the percentage of increase in expenditure made by private sector during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices during 2008-09 is estimated to be 6.7 percent as per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009 . This growth rate of GDP is largely contributed by high growth rate of 13.1 percent in 'community, social and personal services sector' which includes public administration and defence.

(c) As per the Union Budget, 2009-10, the Central Government expenditure increased from Rs. 712671 crores in the year 2007-08 to Rs. 900953 crores (Revised Estimates) in the year 2008-09 accounting for 26.4 percent increase.

(d) As per the Revised Estimates of Annual National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization on May 29th, 2009, the private final consumption expenditure (at current prices) in 2008-09 was 12.2% higher than that in 2007-08.

Wages of Safai Karamcharis

†2191. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has acknowledged that safai workers and employees are getting very low wages;

(b) whether this commission has recommended to enhance their wages; and

(c) whether Government is agree thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) had recommended fixing and payment of minimum wages to Safai Karamcharis.

(c) The Central Government *vide* notification dated 7th August, 2008 has fixed the minimum rates of wages per day payable to the employees engaged in Employment of sweeping and cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. The basic rates of minimum wages notified for "A", "B" and "C" areas are Rs. 180/-, Rs. 150/- and Rs. 120/- per day respectively.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.